

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of the claims will replace all prior versions and listings of the claims in the application.

Listing of Claims

Claim 1 (canceled).

1 (currently amended) A discrete, preassembled, composite block unit for independent placement as a unit with other laterally and vertically adjacent units to form a mortared wall structure, comprising:

a first wall and a second wall, at least one of which is load bearing for vertical loads and made from a first, masonry-type material, each said wall having at least one mortar receiving surface for forming a mortar joint with said adjacent block units;
and

a connective structure formed of a second, non-masonry-type material and connected between the first and second walls, said connective structure having at least two connectors;

wherein each of the connectors is connected to one of the first and second walls, such that prior to placement of the block unit in a wall structure the first and second walls are securely positioned with respect to one another as opposite faces of a discrete, substantially rectangular block, each face having a face area;

wherein the connective structure is free of direct, structural connection to any wall
of each adjacent block unit when the block unit is in a wall structure;
wherein the connective structure comprises arms supporting the at least two
connectors and said arms provide a thermal conduction path of limited
vertical cross-sectional area relative to either wall face area; and

~~The block unit of claim 1~~, wherein the connective structure comprises:

a center form with first and second opposed sides;
at least one of the arms supporting a connector projects outwardly from
each of the opposed sides of the center form; and
wherein the arms taper such that the vertical cross-sectional area of the
connective structure decreases as it extends away from the walls
toward the center form.

3. (currently amended) The block unit of ~~claim 1~~ ¹ claim 2 wherein at least one connector
is an insert-type connector and one of the first and second walls has a connector formation that is
matingly engaged by the connector.

4. (previously presented) The block unit of ~~claim 1~~ ² claim 2, wherein the connector formation is a
receptacle and the insert-type connector is inserted into the receptacle, such that the insert-type
connector is frictionally engaged by the receptacle.

[Claim 5 (canceled).

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~~6.~~ (currently amended) A discrete, preassembled, composite block unit for independent placement as a unit with other laterally and vertically adjacent units to form a mortared wall structure, comprising:

a first wall and a second wall, at least one of which is load bearing for vertical loads and made from a first, masonry-type material, each said wall having at least one mortar receiving surface for forming a mortar joint with said adjacent block units;
and

a connective structure formed of a second, non-masonry-type material and connected between the first and second walls, said connective structure having at least two connectors;

wherein each of the connectors is connected to one of the first and second walls, such that prior to placement of the block unit in a wall structure the first and second walls are securely positioned with respect to one another as opposite faces of a discrete, substantially rectangular block, each face having a face area;

wherein the connective structure is free of direct, structural connection to any wall of each adjacent block unit when the block unit is in a wall structure;

wherein the connective structure comprises arms supporting the at least two
connectors and said arms provide a thermal conduction path of limited
vertical cross-sectional area relative to either wall face area; and

~~The block unit of claim 1,~~ wherein the first wall and second wall each have an
upper edge when connected by the connective structure and the arms of the
connective structure ~~comprises~~ comprise:

two end arms and a center arm;

wherein the center arm is vertically displaced with respect to the end arms
to a position nearer the said upper edges of the first wall and
second wall.

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7. (previously presented) The block unit of claim ~~6~~ 9, wherein the center arm comprises at
least one recess for accommodating a horizontal reinforcing bar.

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8. (previously presented) The block unit of claim ~~6~~ 9, wherein the connective structure
further comprises a center form supported on the two end arms and center arm.

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9. (original) The block unit of claim ~~6~~ 9, wherein the top of the center arm is flush with
the top of the first and second walls.

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~~10.~~ (currently amended) The block unit of ~~claim 1~~ ¹~~claim 2~~, wherein each of the connectors is matingly engaged in one of the first and second walls.

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~~11.~~ (currently amended) The block unit of ~~claim 1~~ ¹~~claim 2~~, wherein the connective structure is substantially composed of a plastic material.

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~~12.~~ (currently amended) The block unit of ~~claim 1~~ ¹~~claim 2~~, wherein the ~~connective~~ structure ~~has~~ center form comprises a partition that forms a first cavity with the first wall and a second cavity with the second wall.

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~~13.~~ (original) The block unit of ~~claim 12~~ ⁶⁶, wherein the first cavity is larger than the second cavity.

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~~14.~~ (currently amended) The block unit of ~~claim 1~~ ¹~~claim 2~~, wherein at least one connector has sides extending outwardly and is received in a dovetail-shaped connector formation in the first or second wall.

¹⁶
~~15.~~ (currently amended) ~~The block unit of claim 1 further comprising:~~ A discrete, preassembled, composite block unit for independent placement as a unit with other laterally and vertically adjacent units to form a mortared wall structure, comprising:

a first wall and a second wall, at least one of which is load bearing for vertical loads and
made from a first, masonry-type material, each said wall having at least one
mortar receiving surface for forming a mortar joint with said adjacent block units;
and

a connective structure formed of a second, non-masonry-type material and connected
between the first and second walls, said connective structure having at least two
connectors and a center form having one side facing the first wall and one side
facing the second wall;

wherein each of the connectors is connected to one of the first and second walls,
such that prior to placement of the block unit in a wall structure the first
and second walls are securely positioned with respect to one another as
opposite faces of a discrete, substantially rectangular block, each face
having a face area;

wherein the connective structure is free of direct, structural connection to any wall
of each adjacent block unit when the block unit is in a wall structure;

wherein the connective structure comprises arms supporting the at least two
connectors and said arms provide a thermal conduction path of limited
vertical cross-sectional area relative to either wall face area; and

wherein at least one arm projecting projects from either side of the center form;
center form, wherein each at least one arm has a connector; connector,

and wherein the projection length of the at least one arm is not equal to the projection of the other at least one arm.

[Claims 16-17 (canceled).

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18. (currently amended) A connective structure for forming a discrete, preassembled, composite block unit for independent placement as a unit mortared with other laterally and vertically adjacent units to form a mortared, masonry wall structure, each block unit having a first wall and a second wall, each with a face area and at least one of which is load-bearing for vertical loads, comprising:

a plurality of elements forming arms and connectors for connecting the connective structure between the first wall and the second wall, the elements comprising:
~~The connective structure of claim 17, wherein the elements comprise:~~ a center form; two end arms projecting outwardly from each side of the center form and substantially perpendicularly from the center form, wherein both ends of each end arm have a connector; a center arm projecting outwardly from each side of the center form and substantially perpendicularly from the center form, wherein both ends of the center arm have a connector; wherein the arms extend between the first and second walls and each connector is a compressible element for insertion into and frictional engagement with one of said first and second walls to securely position said walls with respect to one another as opposed faces;

wherein the connective structure is a non-masonry material and is free of direct, structural connection to any wall of each adjacent block unit when the block unit is in a wall structure;

wherein said at least one arm provides a thermal conduction path of limited vertical cross-sectional area relative to either face area; and

wherein the connective structure is integrally formed of a substantially rigid material.

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~~19.~~ (currently amended) The connective structure of ~~claim 17~~ ¹⁷ ~~claim 18~~, wherein at least one of the connectors is an insert-type connector for a dovetail-shaped connector formation in the first or second wall.

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~~20.~~ (original) The connective structure of ~~claim 19~~ ¹⁸, wherein the insert-type connector is generally V-shaped.

[Claims 21-23 (canceled).

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~~24.~~ (currently amended) The connective structure of ~~claim 17~~ ¹⁷ ~~claim 18~~ wherein the arms supporting the at least two connectors taper such that the vertical cross-sectional area of the connective structure decreases as it extends away from the connectors.

[Claims 25-37 (canceled).

¹³
~~38.~~ (currently amended) A discrete block unit as claimed in ~~claim 35~~ ⁹ ~~claim 6~~ further comprising an insulating mass having approximately the same height and width dimensions as the first and second walls, said mass being secured and held by the connective structure so as to provide a barrier to energy movement between the first and second walls.

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[Claim 39 (canceled)

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~~40.~~ (currently amended) A discrete block unit as claimed in ~~claim 35~~ ⁹ ~~claim 6~~ wherein at least one of the first wall and the second wall has a surface treatment.

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~~41.~~ (currently amended) A discrete block unit as claimed in ~~claim 35~~ ⁹ ~~claim 6~~ wherein at least one of the first and second walls is unitary with the connective structure.

[Claims 42-52 (canceled).